

ABSTRACT

An information network that integrates voice interactive, text interactive and streaming video on high speed optical and satellite connection to deliver virtual information to physicians, nurses, pharmacists and patients. This virtual resource network provides the patient records upon voice command and verifies insurance coverage, searches for proper dosage, alternative drugs, evaluates pricing and availability. This virtual resource network also prepares and sends billing information, tracks patient progress and sends automatic reminders to patients.

Also provided is second opinion on demand, access to universities and medical journals and treatises so that physicians are provided with the latest treatment options. The virtual resource network is not intended as a computerized doctor, but simply as an aid to physicians to improve their access to needed information and streamline insurance and pharmaceutical procedures. In order for the system to operate effectively, it is anticipated that use will be made of an electronic input device. Preferably, an electronic medical clipboard along with a multi-point pen writer, and digital recorder is used which enables hand writing recognition that is transcribed into patient's evaluation folder. The electronic clipboard is combined with a digitized voice recorder that records both patient descriptions of symptoms and doctor's or nurse's notes and questions. In addition to the electronic medical clipboard it is also advantageous to incorporate a proboscope which provides instant culture, saliva, mucus, blood and urine collector and tester with digitized color coded results as well as electronic two way voice and video feeds for contacting other medical professionals for consultation.